

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2011
MINUTES

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chair	<i>Present</i>	Richard Gonzalez	<i>Excused</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Present</i>	Carol Ann Hawn	<i>Present</i>
Richard P. Berger	<i>Present</i>	Myra Herbert	<i>Present</i>
Dr. Jennifer Anne Bishop	<i>Excused</i>	William Kogler	<i>Present</i>
Wendy Breseman	<i>Excused</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
John R. Byers	<i>Present</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Excused</i>
Robert L. Faherty	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	<i>Excused</i>
Donna J. Fleming, Vice Chair	<i>Excused</i>	Dr. Gerald V. Poje	<i>Present</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Present</i>	Herbert James Smith	<i>Not Present</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Present</i>	Henry Wulf	<i>Present</i>
<u>Staff:</u>			
Patricia Harrison, Deputy County Executive			<i>Present</i>
M. Gail Ledford, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Brenda Gardiner, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Ronald McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>

Guests and Other Attendees: Nannette Bowler; George Braunstein; Christopher Leonard; Dean Klein, Paula Sampson, Nancy Vehrs, Supervisor Hudgins, Chairman Sharon Bulova, Martin Taylor, Michelle Gregory, Rosalyn Foroobar, Carolyn Castro-Donlan.

Note: *At 7 p.m., an orientation was held for members with clerk to the Board Nancy Vehrs on requirements for boards, authorities and commission members.(PowerPoint to be posted on Council website).*

7:32 PM
Call to Order

Kevin Bell, Chair of the Human Services Council, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. He introduced the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, and Catherine Hudgins, Supervisor Hunter Mill District, and chair of the BOS Human Services committee. Council Chairman Bell indicated this was the first time in the 24 year history of the Council that BOS members in these roles had attended the HSC meeting.

7:35 – 8:30 PM Human Services Council Role and Responsibilities

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Catherine Hudgins, Supervisor, Hunter Mill District and Chair, Human Services Committee, Board of Supervisors, joined the council members for a discussion on the current and future role of the Human Services Council.

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The Chairman expressed appreciation for role the Council members serve in the County. The HSC is a valuable asset to the county in reaching out to human services organizations, clients of the human services system and the community at large. She indicated that the Board looks to the HSC to provide recommendations on areas where the system can be more efficient and effective, as well as critical services areas that must be supported or preserved. The council can provide help to the Board in identifying taxpayer priorities, and what constituents believe is their ability to pay for provided services. The council can be the neutral party on interpreting the policy and budget implications for funding proposals. The Board relies on a nonpartisan perspective from the council, and an unbiased view from a system-wide perspective (vs. advocacy for one constituency, need or service).

The Chairman discussed various ways the HSC could collaborate with other county boards, authorities and commissions, and community groups, to identify areas in which the Board needs to be informed.

Supervisor Hudgins shared her appreciation for the HSC membership. She indicated the importance of linking HSC activities to the Boards' Human Services committee as needed. The council was challenged to identify areas that the BOS could help them as individuals in fulfilling their mission as advisors.

Supervisor Hudgins suggested that the Board will continue to work on goals setting and measures to determine success. She indicated that the HSC can provide a cross system decision making support for the Board– to identify what difference is made for people served by the system. The Board is looking to the HSC to provide information on how well the system is serving the community. Supervisor Hudgins suggested that the HSC interact with the BOS to set priorities for the County.

Specific program questions raised by the Board members included: How do we succeed economically? What is the schools' dropout rate? If we don't know capacity for success, is it hard to know where to start.

Supervisor Hudgins addressed various strategies for engaging citizens. She noted that it may be an opportune time to bring members of various BACs together periodically to discuss issues in the community. The Council was advised to review how the various boards could work collectively to identify community needs and action recommendations to address them.

As the BOS continues to plan for the future, the Chairman requested that the Council members advise the board on areas of county-schools collaboration.

During discussion, questions included how the Board would like the human services system to measure success and what the metrics look like. The members suggested ways to engage service providers to develop measures to evaluate themselves. The Council is working to promote more information and data/statistics on what works and how well. Members also pointed out to the Board members that often the community doesn't understand the services they need or where to go for help. The Council wants to work on improving the ability to coordinate services everyone needs and making access points more available. The members discussed the importance of ongoing coordination of services, and the value of partnerships with the county school system for services.

Communications was discussed and how the county has changed – in population size, demographics and composition. The Council advocated for ways to put community needs in context – for example the poverty

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growth in the county over the past thirty years, and total numbers of persons at or below poverty level. How can the HSC message these needs for the Board of Supervisors? They discussed defining issues, then connecting community resources to address the issues, and to develop ways to ensure how well the system is functions through performance measures.

Areas suggested for future discussion included:

- The needs of veterans
- Community mental health
- Needs of our very diverse community
- Concerns for youth
- The changing environment around job creation

The council was encouraged to focus on data, answering basic questions like “Who are the homeless? Who are the unemployed? What is child abuse and what is being done to eliminate it?”

8:30 p.m. Human Services Council Planning (discussion)

Members updated the group on progress of individual meetings with Board of Supervisors. Individual members were encouraged to put in writing a brief paragraph summary of information provided by individual members of the Board of Supervisors on verbal feedback given to their respective HSC appointees.

8:50 p.m. Committee reports (action)

A communications committee of the council has been created. Committee chair is Bob Gaudian; members volunteering include Dick Berger and Bill Kogler. Bob will begin work on charter of committee, incorporating stakeholder feedback from surveys of HSC members, human services directors, other Boards, Authorities and Commission survey information and input from members of the Board of Supervisors.

Approval of July 18, 2011 meeting minutes (action -packet handout)

Corrections made include members present and spelling of member names. The minutes as corrected were approved.

New Business: Upcoming HSC meetings

Announcements for upcoming meetings were made:

October 17, 2011 – presentation, nonprofit capacity building activities – Telly Whitfield

The Board of Supervisors Human Services Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 1 p.m.

Adjournment: The Human Services Council meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.